Air Force Option 4

1. System Description

Air Force Option 4 (AFOPT4) provides GCCS 3.0.1 a direct interface to CTAPS, ATO/ACO query capabilities, and graphic and tabular displays of ATO/ACO data. AFOPT4 is comprised of three segments, GARDP, CAFMS-X(G), and Task View:

GARDP: The GCCS Air Tasking Order (ATO) Review and Dissemination Package (ARDP) and ATO Airspace Control Order (ACO) Tool (AAT), provides file management and viewing capabilities of ATO/ACOs. It accesses the CTAPS thru SMTP mail to pull the entire ATO.

CAFMS-X: The Computer-Assisted Force Management System provides GCCS users read-only access, using X-Windows, to the Contingency Theater Automated Planning System (CTAPS) via a connected Air Operations Center. It accesses the CTAPS via SQLNET queries.

Task View: The Air Force Mission Planning Systems (AFMPS) ATO Task View provides access to USMTF ATO/ACO data to query and to display non-COP, multiple graphical views of message components.

AFOPT4 tools provide an interim capability for ATO/ACO access and viewing until the fielding of Theatre Battle Management Core System (TBMCS). TBMCS, a Joint Staff program with USAF as Executive Agent, is a DII COE compliant, joint air operations planning and execution application. It replaces non-Y2K CTAPS with a new, Y2K compliant ATO/ACO tool, which uses the joint standard USMTF 98. Therefore, it should be noted that GARDP and CAFMS-X segments will not be able to function after TBMCS is fielded, as they are dependent on CTAPS. Task View can partially function, since it uses an enhanced message format, USMTF 95-3. NOTE: a GCCS-TBMCS interface is required to use Task View. As of first quarter FY99, no interfaces have been scheduled for GCCS 3.0.1.

2. System Requirements

All segments of the AFOPT 4 application reside on the Solaris Platform. CAFMS-X depends on Oracle Client Applications and Netscape Web Browser. Task View and GARDP have no external software requirements

3. Users/Training

AFOPT4 was created to provide an alternative for GCCS users who receive ATO information via floppy disk or FTP. Training for AFOPT4 is developed by the Air Force and consists of interactive web-based functionality and downloading of training programs from the Air Force Web Page. Because of its limited timeline usage, AFOPT 4 training will be completed at the journeyman level only.